

April Kerr
Farmington
LD 1377

April 23, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is April Kerr, I am a resident of Farmington and I want to submit testimony in favor of LD 1377: "Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Evaluate Potential Regulation of the Vehicle Towing Industry and the Impact on State Agencies and Industries." I would also like to refer to a previous bill, LD 831: "An Act Regarding Abandoned Vehicles Due to Involuntary Psychiatric Hospitalization." I fully support it being moved into LD 1377.

Purchasing a vehicle is the second-largest purchase that most people ever make in their whole life. Having someone or a company be able to take over ownership of it with very little paperwork or notice seems to be an injustice.

In the cases where people find themselves experiencing a mental crisis, which ends up in hospitalization, they often don't even realize or comprehend that their vehicle has been towed, not to mention where it was towed. Then let's also think for a moment about how the person who has been hospitalized can not talk to anyone outside of the facility, in many cases, for weeks, due to a lack of stabilization. Yes, that's right, if you are not stable according to their standards, you are isolated. You can't contact your family, and they can't contact the person in the hospital to obtain permission to act on their behalf to retrieve the vehicle. Having more time allows better communication for the inpatient to become more stable and aware of what is happening.

Towing and storage fees should have a monetary minimum and maximum. There are no guardrails in place for how much they can charge. There are guidelines for so many things in place, but little to nothing in place for these companies to go by. They have too much control over what to charge. Please put something in place to keep them in line. Many of them are also living in those vehicles so now they not only lost their transportation but their home as well. If you have nowhere to go when leaving a hospital, many times they will not release you. Now, more taxpayer dollars are being used to keep them in the hospital. In closing, please consider all the ripple effects that are created when one loses their vehicle/home due to the plethora of charges when a vehicle is towed. Please vote ought to pass LD 1377, which will include LD 831.

Thank you, April Kerr
Farmington